

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image reader comprising a reading glass plate facing an optical scanning system and a platen roller provided opposite to the reading glass plate; both being grounded. It is combined with an automatic sheet feeder, which comprises a retardation roller containing torque limiters and corrugation rollers. An optimized combination of these rollers provides an ideal sheet transfer and avoids overlaid sheet transfer. Generation of paper dust and toner particles is minimized in the optimized sheet transfer. Furthermore, sticking of such dust and particles on the reading glass plate and the platen roller is prevented in an image reader of the present invention. Thus the image reader reads out high quality images without being affected by dispersed paper dust or toner particles, while overlaid transfer of mother document sheets is prevented in the sheet feeder.